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April 3, 2015

ATTACHMENT TO ITEM C-46

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Vickie Spillers
Executive Director, Board of Regents

SUBJECT: Authorization to Name Building

Dear Members of the Board:

Please allow this letter to serve as a recommendation for approval of the Agenda Item submitted by the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) to name its building now known as the Engineering Research Building for Frederick E. Giesecke. This integrative research facility for engineering focuses on three areas: nanofabrication, materials characterization, and energy research. The facility will include nanofabrication laboratories, the Corrosion Science and Materials Reliability Laboratory, and research space for faculty, staff and students working for the Texas A&M Energy Institute.

Dr. Frederick E. Giesecke has a long history with Texas A&M University. He earned his first of five degrees, a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M in 1886 at the age of 17; and at 19, he was named head of the Department of Mechanical Drawing. Giesecke earned his second degree from Texas A&M in 1890, in mechanical engineering, and his S.B. in architecture from MIT in 1904. Giesecke established Texas' first formal program in architectural education at Texas A&M in 1905, and led the department until 1912. He later earned his Ph.D. in 1924 from the University of Illinois. Giesecke returned to Texas A&M and served as head of the Department of Architecture and college architect. In 1928, he was named director of TEES, a position he held until 1939.

During his TEES leadership, Giesecke designed and oversaw the construction of many buildings on the Texas A&M campus, including the Academic Building, the Chemistry Building, the Williams Building, Cushing Library and Hart and Walton halls. His strong support of engineering's research mission enabled several TEES testing research labs to be created, including the Cotton Fiber Testing Lab (1937), the Fan Testing Lab and the Energy Systems Lab (1939). TEES began to aid the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to help bring electricity to rural and farm areas during this time. At the close of the 1930s, TEES was stronger than any time in its history, and the agency established several significant research thrusts. In 1943, at the age of 75, Giesecke earned a degree in civil engineering from Illinois University, his fifth.

Throughout his life, Giesecke has provided valuable leadership in advancing engineering research through his work as TEES Director and his strong support of the mission of the agency. The vision of the Engineering Research Building will continue the legacy of Dr. Frederick E. Giesecke and we strongly support the naming of the Frederick E. Giesecke Engineering Research Building in his honor.

Sincerely,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

M. Katherine Banks, Ph.D., P.E.
Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering
Director, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station